



This scenario will attempt to simulate the events that took place at approximately 3:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 8, 1862.

Since about 10:00 in the morning, William H. Lytle's brigade had taken up position on the right flank of Union 1st Corps commanded by General Alexander M. McCook. The 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, supported by the 15th Kentucky infantry, were positioned in Henry P. Bottom's barn yard overlooking Henry Bottom's House. They were on the extreme right flank of 1st Corps. Although arrayed in battle formation, they didn't expect to do battle that day. They believed that, as had been the case for the last week, the Confederates were retreating to the northeast, towards Harrodsburg. Since there appeared little threat to their front, another regiment, the 42nd Indiana, was sent forward to the semi-dry bed of Doctor's Creek to rest, boil some coffee, and fill their empty canteens in the drought-stricken area. Suddenly, the calm was broken by a fusillade of Confederate artillery shot and shell landing all around. Soon after, two heavily supported Confederate Infantry brigades came out of the woods and attacked towards the 3rd Ohio and the 15th Kentucky, driving the hapless 42nd Indiana in a panic from the creek bed.

The Confederates had problems too. Bushrod R. Johnson's Confederate brigade was assigned to attack this area. The Confederates became mixed and disorganized by the cliffs along the creek, just to the north of the road as well as other terrain features. At the same time, another Confederate brigade under the command of Daniel W. Adams was approaching the area from the southeast. When these two brigades collided where the road crosses the creek, there was extra confusion causing them to fire at each other, both brigades thinking the other was the enemy. This was soon worked out and soon both Johnson and Adams began their coordinated attack on the 3rd Ohio and the 15th Kentucky. There were just over 1,000 Union soldiers in the barn yard, being attacked on three sides by almost 3,500 veteran Confederates. As the 3rd Ohio was desperately trying to hold the line, Confederate artillery fire caught Henry Bottom's barn on fire. The strong southerly wind blew the smoke right up the Union battle line. Many wounded from the 3rd Ohio were too weak to pull themselves out of the barn and perished in the flames. Not only was the barn on fire, but the drought-starved vegetation on the whole hillside was also in flames. The battle lines were only 60 yards apart. The Confederates were protected by a stone wall, but the 3rd Ohio was protected only by a post and rail fence. The 3rd Ohio held the line. All the time, messengers from the 15th Kentucky were offering to advance from their reserve position and relieve the 3rd Ohio on the firing line. After about 30 minutes of horrendous fire, the 3rd Ohio then acquiesced to the wishes of the Kentuckians and withdrew. The 15th Kentucky then held the line behind the post and rail fence, the smoke from the burning barn still choked and blinded them. After about another 30 minutes, the 15th Kentucky was forced back when some of Daniel Adam's men, using the creek for cover, positioned themselves behind the Yankees. Bushrod Johnson's supporting brigade, commanded by Patrick Cleburne, at about the same time, broke the Union positions more towards the north, forcing the entire Union line in that area to crumble and fall back. The Confederates forced the Union soldiers back

another third of a mile west to the Dixville Crossroads, where darkness ended the battle. The two Union regiments suffered almost 400 casualties (40%).

"Our line was steadfastly maintained until the barn on our right was fired by a shell from the enemy's batteries, and in a few minutes the heat became so intense that my right was compelled to fall back. After rallying we were relieved by the Fifteenth Kentucky, Colonel Curran Pope, and our ammunition being nearly exhausted, we retired to the bottom of the hill. Soon after I sent Companies A, D, and F to act in conjunction with two companies of the Fifteenth Kentucky in endeavoring to hold a fence which ran along the side of a field in which we had been fighting and perpendicular to our former line, but the fire of the enemy's battery, combined with that of his infantry, was so deadly that these men were again ordered to retire."

– Colonel John Beatty, 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry

"The firing of the regiment was kept up with overwhelming effect, and we had succeeded in driving the enemy entirely behind the stone fence. We saw them beginning to file around our right, but our ammunition was exhausted, and the sun was down, and the enemy had passed to our rear in the fields on our left, so I faced the regiment about and marched it in good order to the foot of the hill where I united with the Third Ohio and filed out into the road and marched back, and coming to the same place I had occupied in the morning, I turned them in there to rest themselves, and was placing them below the hill, for the brow was raked by cannon from both sides, but General Rousseau rode up and desired them to be placed on the brow. I immediately faced the regiment about and marched it to the top and the hill and made it lie down."

– Colonel Curran Pope, 15th Kentucky Infantry

"We were by a small post-and-rail fence which had taken fire from the burning barn. It was falling on our dead, and the kind-hearted rebel captain removed them and put the fire out. I was a prisoner, with my left arm half torn off."

- Private A.J. Hearld, 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry

"Three or four times the colors would fall, but were no sooner down than they were raised again, by other hands. Myself and three others were trying to shoot through a hole in the wall, and we were in each other's way. So I told them to do the loading and I would do the shooting, and thus we continued until the enemy fled. I felt quite safe behind that wall."

– W.C. Gipson, 17th Tennessee, Johnson's Brigade.

"The enemy's fire upon my regiment was heavy and incessant, but being well protected it suffered but little, while it delivered its fire with coolness and precision. The engagement was thus continued until the enemy abandoned his position and our ammunition was exhausted. By your order I then detached a company and sent it back for ammunition, but before its return I was ordered by a staff officer, unknown to me, to move forward over the hill upon which one of our batteries was afterward placed. I had bayonets fixed and moved forward."

- Colonel A.B. Marks, 17th Tennessee Infantry, Johnson's Brigade.

Union Regiments Portrayed:

15th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry

3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry

(Note: A small contingent of the "3rd Ohio" will be needed to portray some soldiers of the 42nd Indiana at the very beginning of the scenario.)

US Artillery - Simonson's 5th Indiana Battery

US Cavalry - 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry

Confederate Regiments Portrayed:

17th Tennessee

37th Tennessee

5th Confederate

13th Louisiana

20th Louisiana

CS Artillery - 5th Company, Washington Artillery Battalion "Slocumb's Battery"

CS Cavalry - 1st Kentucky Cavalry

